

REMARKS:

Claims 1-16 have been cancelled and new claims 37-55 have been added.

The indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 9-12 and 27-30 is acknowledged with appreciation; responsively, that subject matter has been rewritten in independent format as claims 55 and 56, respectively.

Certain of the claims have been rejected as being anticipated by Burke et al. '198, Shaeffer et al. '205 and Duley et al. '479.

Initially, it must be pointed out that the recited illumination means are independent of, and in addition to any by-product illumination that may occur from the welding process. This feature has been clarified in each of the independent claims as being of a "predetermined ultraviolet wavelength." This aspect alone defeats anticipation by either Burke et al. '198 or Shaeffer et al. '205; neither discloses a supplemental illumination means, and particularly no illumination means of predetermined ultraviolet wavelength.

This same claimed feature also defeats Duley et al. '479 as an anticipatory reference. Duley et al. '479 employs a laser radiation source, not an ultraviolet radiation source of predetermined wavelength as expressly claimed by Applicant. Still further, claim 39, as an example, recites the illumination means as illuminating the welding area with ultraviolet radiation across a predetermined ultraviolet wavelength range that includes the predetermined ultraviolet wavelength - an aspect that would clearly be unworkable in a system that employs a laser radiation illumination source.

It is respectfully submitted that the invention, as presently recited, defines over the prior art and is allowable based on the features that have been high-lighted and argued hereinabove.

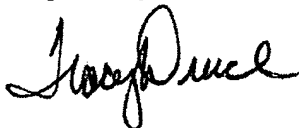
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Applicant: HENRIKSON, Per
Atty. Ref.: 7589.204.PCUS00

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, Order No. 7589.204.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Druce", written in a cursive style.

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